

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498

Serial No. 09/963,244

RCE - Reply to Final Office Action dated: 1/07/05

Preliminary Amendment dated: 02/18/05

PATENT
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In the Claims

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 23-24.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 12, 15 and 19-21 as follows:

add new claims 23-24

1. (Currently amended) A method of detecting defects in a recordable optical storage medium, comprising the steps of:

accessing a ~~segment of multimedia data that has been recorded onto a portion of the recordable storage medium wherein new data is to be recorded;~~

~~in response to detecting old data having been previously recorded in said accessed portion, selectively examining the segment to determine whether the portion contains a defect old data for defects prior to recording said new data; and~~

~~modifying said selectively examining step if a defect is detected~~

~~in response to detecting a lack of previously recorded data in said accessed portion, recording test data in said accessed portion and selectively examining the recorded test data for defects prior to recording said new data;~~

~~wherein if defects are detected in the data in said accessed portion, corrective measures are taken.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said selectively examining step comprises the steps of:

selectively reading the data in said accessed portion segment; and

selectively processing at least one error correction indicator in the data segment to locate at least one error in said accessed portion of the recordable optical storage medium ~~the segment~~.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the errors are correctable and the number of errors has reached a predetermined threshold.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the errors are uncorrectable.

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6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said selectively reading step further comprises:
and said selectively processing steps are repeated until the errors are corrected or a step is repeated
repeated for a predetermined number of times, whichever is less, and a determined number of times.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the recordable optical storage medium is a disc that spins during said selectively reading step and the selectively reading step further comprises the step of decreasing the speed of the disc prior to each said selectively reading step.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said selectively reading step further comprises the step of maintaining the speed of the disc substantially constant during each said selectively reading step.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said selectively reading step further comprises the step of skipping over at least a portion of the segment.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a front end section of a storage medium device, wherein said selectively examining step is performed exclusively within said front end section.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A system for detecting defects in a recordable optical storage medium, comprising:

a pickup assembly for accessing a ~~segment of multimedia data that has been recorded onto~~ portion of the recordable storage medium wherein new data is to be recorded; and

a controller for:

in response to detecting old data having been previously recorded in said accessed portion, selectively examining the segment to determine whether the portion contains a defect old data for defects prior to recording said new data; and

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modifying said selectively examining step if a defect is detected
in response to detecting a lack of previously recorded data in said accessed portion, recording test data in said accessed portion and selectively examining the test data for defects prior to recording said new data;

wherein if defects are detected in the data in said accessed portion, corrective measures are taken.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 12, wherein the pickup assembly records the segment of multimedia data onto the portion of the recordable storage medium.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 12, wherein said controller comprises:

a front end processor; and
a back end processor.

15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the front end processor is programmed to:

selectively reading the data in said accessed portion segment; and
selectively processing at least one error correction indicator in the data segment to locate at least one error in said accessed portion of the recordable optical storage medium the segment.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein the errors are correctable and the number of errors has reached a predetermined threshold.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein the errors are uncorrectable.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 17, wherein the front end processor is further programmed to repeat the selectively reading and selectively

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processing steps until the errors are corrected or repeated for a predetermined number of times, whichever is less.

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein the recordable optical storage medium is a disc that spins as the data in said accessed portion segment is selectively read and the back end processor is programmed to read and then decrease the speed of the disc prior to the data in said accessed portion segment being selectively read.
20. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 19, wherein the back end processor is further programmed to maintain the speed of the disc substantially constant as the data in said accessed portion segment is selectively read.
21. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein the front end processor is further programmed to skip over at least a portion of the data in said accessed portion segment.
22. (Canceled)
23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said corrective measures consist of at least one of generating a defect message, storing the address of said accessed portion of the recordable storage medium in a defect table, writing the new data to be recorded onto a different portion of the recordable storage medium, and modifying said selectively examining step.
24. (New) The system according to claim 12, wherein said corrective measures consist of at least one of generating a defect message, storing the address of said accessed portion of the recordable storage medium in a defect table, writing the new data to be recorded onto a different portion of the recordable storage medium, and modifying said selectively examining step.

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